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CFP: Anti-semitism, Islamophobia, White Supremacy and US Culture: The Call for Interfaith "Upstanding" — The Tom Porter Project on Conflict and Resolution — April

Zoom Seminar

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The author, Marvin Ernest Colin Higgins, and his wife Laura Meredith Kenison Higgins, to whom this essay is dedicated - Shalom, Salaam, Santi, Peace

# **"What has been the historical relationship between Anti-Semitism or Islamophobia and white supremacy in US Culture?"**

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## Anti-semitism and White supremacy in US culture



his paper approaches the main topic - What has been the historical relationship between Anti-Semitism or Islamophobia and white supremacy in US culture - in two parts. Firstly the linkage between Anti-Semitism and white supremacy in US culture, and then the linkage between Islamophobia and white supremacy in US culture.



t is my belief that none of the aforementioned - Semitism or Islam - can approach Blackness, Africaness, Melanesianess, Brownness, Mixed-racialness - basically darkness of complexion - in being a problem for anyone in the US or its territories.

Why do I say this?

Because I myself am the spiritual, physical and biological product of a black, African-Jamaican man and a brown-skinned Bahamian Indian woman.

Religiously, philosophically, spiritually, cosmologically, even though I have been positively exposed to different ideas and appreciate them and even incorporate some of them into my own being, I have been shaped by my parents, their lineage, ancestors and my personal experiences.

I was born outside of today's "holy land," which now is the US but after this pandemic, will be the internet, I think, which has no borders and ethics except those inside each human.

Quantum physics, supposedly the cream of humanity's knowledge today, states that the observer determines the observed (please see the seminal books the "Tao of Physics," "Perfect Body, Perfect Mind," "A brief history of Time") or, simply put, as Al

Albert Einstein's famous  $E=mc^2$  equation puts it: energy is also mass, physicality, what is called reality.

So is it a wave or a particle?

Is it "God" or the laws of science?

Is it light or darkness?

Is it a black hole or infinite density?

Cell phones, wireless devices, iPads, computers, telephones, remote cameras and microphones, virtual reality, gaming, drones and the remote acting it represents, is introducing us to another world.

"Thoughts are things," as state all of the writings of Swami Sivananda, copyrighted by the Divine Life Society of Rishikesh, Himalayas, India/ and all the writings of Dr Deepak Chopra, M.D. , copyrighted by the Chopra Foundation.

Today's most advanced sciences look more and more like the teachings of humanity's ancients and when allowed, advise adhering to the concept of balance, in the earth and in humanity - "Maat" - Doing to others what we ourselves want done to us - exemplified by the Ten Commandments, the Vedas, the ancient yogic writings (Hatha Yoga Pradipika, the Bhagavad Gita, the Shreemad Bhagavatam) - and the equivalents from other corners of the globe (Please see the translation of the "Tirukkural of Tiruvalluvar" by Tiruvachakamani K.M. Balasubramaniam, with notes, and a foreword by Dr Kamil Zvelebil, CSc., of Poland, published by Manali Lakshmana Mudaliar specific endowments, Madras, India, 1962, and the books of John Anthony West, Graham Hancock and Robert Bauval, as well as the Pyramid Texts of Kemet - Egypt).

**B**ecause I feel that each human must approach individually, personally and establish a personal and intimate relationship with the "ultimate" - what I feel is the "unifying principle" searched for by Einstein, Hawking and all of us, only some of the Torah, Bible, Quran, Popol Vuh, Jain and Buddhist writings, as well as only some of the mythologies/stories/sciences of the world and recorded and unrecorded history, will be absorbed, adopted and incorporated by each person.

**F**or my support in the contention of the violent, unsettling history of US culture (and thus of modern, world-wide culture) leading up to the idea of white or black or Islamic or Judaic or Christian or American or Russian or "Democratic" or "Communist" supremacy, I refer the reader to the firsthand accounts of all persons over the age of 30 in the US, I refer the reader to any history of the US and/or the World and specifically to such cultural US icons (or their writings/others' writings about them) as W. B. Dubois, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, President Barack Obama, Miles Davis, Rev. Jesse Jackson, James Baldwin, Muhammad Ali (aka Cassius Clay), Malcolm X, Senator Clayton Powell, Paramahansa Yogananda (author of the "Autobiography of a Yogi"), General Colin Powell, Bahamian-born Sir Sidney Poitier ("A Spiritual Autobiography" by Sir Sydney Poitier), the autobiography of H.I.M. Emperor Haile Selasie I of Ethiopia ("My life and Ethiopia's Progress," Vols. one and two, written by his majesty and reprinted in 1999 by Research Associates School Times, Frontline Distribution International, Ltd, with offices in Barbados, Chicago, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago - first published in 1976 in England by Professor Edward Ullendorf, and the Oxford University Press) and US U.N. Ambassador Andrew Jackson.

**I** quote the names of famous US movies: "Gone with the Wind," "Birth of a Nation," "They call me Mr Tibbs" and "Guess whose coming to Dinner?" with Sydney Poitier and two other acting icons, as further illustrations of life in America.

The writings of Eli Wiesel, the plethora of old and new cowboy and Indian movies, the savagery of the American War of Independence and the Civil War, the enshrinement of the right to "bear arms" in the US Constitution, the recent (within the last few years and 2020) school and public shootings, all illustrate the two roads which exist here and everywhere no doubt: peace and war.

Affiliations such as religion, birthplace, language, political party, state of the Union, could only serve to further complicate matters beyond ethnicity, but also bring us to the questions of Semitism and Islam.

One of these is viewed by some as a genetic heritage, by some, as tied to religion and genetics, by others, as only religious and thus presumably intangible, changeable, ephemeral.

I remember watching a famous American interviewer (the video/dvd/VHS "60 Minutes greatest Moments") telling the late President of Egypt Anwar Sadat, that some people think of him as Anti-Semitic.

The President looked shocked, leaned back in his chair and gestured at himself. "How can I be Anti-Semitic? I myself am Semitic."

So it is clear that there are several meanings to Semitism, Anti-Semitism and other words used here.

So too, Islam.

Clearly there are some things that have different answers, depending on who is asked. The main point is this: Is it different? Is it strange to the mainstream? Did it come here (to America) recently or years ago?

I feel that Anti-Semitism (Anti-Judaism in my book), ties in with white supremacy because (1) it is a negative reaction to what is different from all types of American Christianity/religion. This is further exacerbated by (2) whether the so-called Semite is Ashkenazi or Sephardic - leaning (complexion wise) towards lightness or darkness.

Now in my mind, everyone holds to a religion: everyone has a practice or way of life which they feel is best for themselves: and some form groups or join several groups: fan clubs, support groups, unions, sport and hobby clubs. And some are loners.

White supremacy's central theme is that, of all races, those that originate in Europe are the first class ones. Here, I am only giving my opinion, which is based on sixty-four-plus years of observation and experience, while growing up and living in England, former English colonies/territories, including America, five African nations, and three Caribbean nations.



ut I do not think that this is all. Firstly, a white person must look white, not mixed to such a degree (as is happening now in the US) that there is any question about background. Surnames, eye-color, paraphernalia such as bracelets, pendants, clothing, headbands, music, accent, hair style and significant other must be conducive to the claim of superiority.

Very helpful in tracing and understanding the roots of this phenomenon is the movie "Talladega Nights," starring Will Farrell.

It is white supremacy's claim, I feel, that only the Pioneers, or settlers from Europe, purported heterosexuals, cowboys, Bible (Christian) or America-based activities such as football, baseball, and the various branches of the US military, should be countenanced.

Anything different, such as Semitism, Judaism, Africanism, Pacific Islandism, cricket, soccer, shamanism, indigenous-ism, anything which does not subsume itself into the mainstream...is suspect.

And thus, the tale of Judaism/Semitism as told popularly, of a people rejecting and even crucifying "the Savior" and purported founder of Christianity, does not sit well with a superior caste who consider that this land was found, settled and tamed by Christian-based men and women and their descendants.

## The linkage between Islamophobia and white supremacy in US culture



his is very easy to understand and appreciate. The majority of the people who practice this religion are not white, in fact they are black or brown Africans or descendants of Africans, Filipinos (descendants of non-white Oriental races), brown-skinned Arabs and Persians (Iranians), Egyptians, Saudi Arabians, Syrians, Lebanese and Turks (Ottomans who run the racial spectrum but are mostly white. Rome's second capital was Constantinople - Istanbul, Turkey's capital today - according to "The Fall of the Roman Empire").

This is a strange religion (compared to Christianity), related in mythology to Abraham and Sarah, the so-called father and mother of the Israelites, practiced by dusky and strange peoples (compared to the European Pioneers and settlers, even compared to Christopher Columbus and his Royal Spanish/Christian backers and the Spanish-speaking descendants of his soldiers (conquistadores) and settlers.



Connected to an already strange and suspect religion (even though their "holy Quran" retells much of the Christian Bible's old and new testaments, and thus Judaism's "Torah," with a different spin, a dusky and Middle-Eastern part of the world, a different language and script, a rag-headed and bed-sheet clad people for the most part, it does not help that the US Marines supposedly arose to combat piracy against US ships in Africa ("From the halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli").

Then Turkey sided with Germany during the "great" wars.

Then Iraq invaded Kuwait.

Then America invaded Afghanistan and Iraq.

Then Osama Bin Laden and his purportedly Islamic followers steered airplanes into the Twin Towers in America.

The book "Talisman" (Element books, London, copyrighted in 2004) by Graham Hancock and Robert Bauval, in its entirety, helps us understand these 2000 plus years of animosity, not only between purported Muslims and Israelites but also between the Roman Catholic Church and modern Christianity; the crusades, jihads and battles and shifting ownership of the Middle East and Levant between one side and the other.

It also addresses the ancient Gnostics who some say represent real Christianity.

However, some intone: "Bring it on." And that is fine, I say.

But I prefer not to walk that road.

Not this time around.

So we have a people who look at the history of America as tied in with the rest of the world as the undisputed superpower, who see America as the "greatest country in the

world," who, like pretty much all of the people living now round the globe, were reared on a diet of cowboys over the indians (Jamaican Jazz pianist Monty Alexander on his music cd "Caribbean Circle," Chesky Records, Radio City Station, New York, N.Y., 10101) and guns.

**F**rom the beginning, claiming this "new World" for Christianity (the British and Spanish soldiers and settlers), then being beaten by the Revolutionaries, themselves beating off all comers who were not of the flag, fighting first the indians, then each other, then again the British, WW I, WW II, Vietnam, Korea, then imbedding journalists in their armies so that all could see, touch and taste the "shock and awe," it has been a representation of the age of "kaliyug" - epitomized by white supremacy, any supremacy.

Here's a quiz: Who said "Apart from the kingdom of God, no nation is superior to any other," and what do you think it means?

**I**t has taken covid-19 to further and maybe complete the abolition of economic and mental slavery and inclusion of races, people, religions, genders and immigrants.

Not even Hurricane Katrina, FEMA and the first mixed-race US president in over two hundred years did that.

Please see the Larry King Show episodes of 2008-9, featuring the public, barroom-like verbal brawl between soon-to-be President Donald Trump - (after defeating Presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton, who herself successfully opposed current President Joseph Biden for the Democratic ticket) - and fellow tv star, movie actress, comedienne and LGBBT + activist Rosie O'Donnell.

Please see the various episodes of then-reality tv star, multi-millionaire real estate developer Donald Trump's #1 rated tv show "You're Fired."

B.A., A.A, Y.S., M.Y.,

Gorakshanath Acharya

Marvin Ernest Colin Higgins

Please also see the website of the Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine for not only covid-19 information, but also the state of the nation ([www.Nationalacademies.org](http://www.Nationalacademies.org)).